MEET THIS SEASON’S GUEST DIRECTORS!

**TERESA DREWS (The Music Man)** is thrilled to be back at Concordia - this time as a director getting to work with this amazing group of students. Previously, she assisted her husband Dean here at Concordia, choreographing HAIRSPRAY, WILLY WONKA, GODSPELL, and THE GREAT GATSBY. Teresa has co-choreographed many musicals, mostly with her husband Dean, in the Milwaukee area. She trained at the University of Milwaukee Wisconsin in the Inter-Arts Program. Over the years she has performed in over 60 productions including the Fireside Dinner Theater. She has directed productions at area community theaters, youth theaters and high schools. Teresa teaches theater and visual art, and organizes creative arts camps at Danceworks in Milwaukee.

**GLENNA GUSTIN (Our Town)** has performed with Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Great Lakes Theater, and the Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival. At Great Lakes, she acted in one of the earliest U.S. productions of The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby, produced by the late Vincent Dowling. She was also an artist-in-residence with the Ohio Arts Council and a writer and teaching artist with Kansas City Rep’s Rep on the Road program. After moving to Milwaukee, she and her husband Richard formed the Hosanna Project, a drama ministry and education program, for which she wrote, directed, produced and performed original shows. For several years she taught fundamental preaching skills at Sacred Heart School of Theology and did acting coaching for theatre productions at UW-Fond du Lac. In conjunction with Marquette University’s Theatre Department, she directed Proof at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center. Most recently, she has been acting and directing with Acacia Theatre Company. She appeared in Acacia’s production of Malcolm and Teresa and directed Autonomy and last season’s A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas. Glenna is a member of Actors’ Equity and holds an MFA in theatre from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

**MICHAEL LANDERS (The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe)** Being a guest director here at Concordia is an opportunity Michael leapt at for many reasons: an awesome venue, terrific students and staff, plus a fabulous story by a gifted writer, C.S. Lewis, and inspired by the ultimate storyteller, Jesus Christ. This show has allowed Michael to use a large range of his theatrical abilities and experience from a career expanding 37 years. Michael has worn many hats: Director, Actor, Producer, Fight Choreographer, Stunt Man, Set Designer, and more. But for this show, Michael absolutely loves that he can use his training in the art of telling story, which he credits his mentor Bart Gavigan for teaching him how to ask the right questions, and to keep asking. He is excited he can use his studies in animal movement and stage combat, but mostly that he can use his lifetime of theological study to focus all of his abilities and experience to tell THIS story....HIS story, the story of the redemptive power of the sacrificial lamb/Lion Jesus Christ. This is now Michael’s favorite show that he has directed. His current favorite acting role is his ongoing radio drama role of “Jack” in the “The Brinkman Adventures”, which is in its 6th season.
Thornton Wilder’s upbringing, from his birth and early years in Madison, Wisconsin, to a youth lived in boarding schools in China and California, aligns with his lifelong dedication to scholarship and writing. His father Dr. Amos Parker Wilder was a newspaper editor, speaker and diplomat. His mother Isabella Niven Wilder, a writer in her own right, fostered a love of the arts in her five children. But along with classical studies and early playwriting came intervals of farm work. For many years, Thornton’s father found summer jobs for his son, working on farms across the U.S. And so, the pre-dawn lights and milking which start each new day in the countryside became as familiar to Thornton Wilder as reading the letters of Cicero in Latin.

In 1920, when Thornton Wilder was just twenty-three and studying Latin and Italian at the American Academy in Rome, he was greatly affected by something he and his fellow students observed at an archaeological site near the center of the city. In Wilder’s own words: “while by candle-light we peered at faded paintings of a family called Aurelius, symbolic representations of their dear children and parents . . . playing in gardens and adjusting their Roman robes, the street-cars of today rushed over us.” In the years ahead, Wilder would not only explore ideas about what is timeless about human life, but as a writer, he would experiment with literary forms to convey his themes. With an M.A. in French from Princeton, Wilder would teach and lecture while writing, not only plays, novels, and translations, but a large volume of correspondence as well. Friends in Wilder’s circle included, Einstein, Sigmund Freud, Picasso and Gertrude Stein. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* and for both *Our Town* and the *Skin of Our Teeth*. He remains the only American author to have received the prize in both fiction and drama.

This year marks the eightieth anniversary of the Broadway premiere of *Our Town*. The enduring popularity of the play for audiences all over the world speaks for itself. It has been translated into thirty languages. For me to try to add some interpretive comments to the eloquence of the text seems unnecessary. A great deal has been written about what the play means, how to categorize it, and its place in theatre history. During his lifetime, Thornton Wilder continued to question whether productions of the play truly hit the mark of what he wanted to express. He even acted the role of the Stage Manager in a few productions. In his preface to the 1957 edition of *Three Plays* by Thornton Wilder he described *Our Town* as “an attempt to find a value above all price for the smallest events in our daily life.” It has been a privilege for all of us connected with this CUW production to have the opportunity to join in that attempt by bringing Thornton Wilder’s words and characters to life on our stage.

Glenna Gustin

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Acacia Theatre Company, Brass Bell Music, Cardinal Stritch University Theater, Adam Czaplewski, Richard Gustin, John Hefter, Susan Knaus, Andy Kukec, Mike Landers, Ben Parman, Abbey Pitchford, Deb Musante, Joann Stenklyft, Lisa Stenulson, CUW Marketing, Campus Safety, Duplication Center, IT, and Maintenance, Bob MacPherson and Terry Ronsman
CAST

Stage Managers .......................................................... Lianna Brice, Ardis White, Alexis Smith
Assistant Stage Manager/Sound Effects .......................................................... Angela Penterman
Dr. Gibbs .................................................................................... Ethan Boester
Howie Newsome ................................................................. Michael Ewert
Mrs. Gibbs ................................................................................ Selah Batiansila
Mrs. Webb ................................................................................ Ethan Karschnik
George Gibbs .............................................................................. Avrielle Schneider
Rebecca Gibbs .............................................................................. Charlie Rosenthal
Wally Webb/Choir Member .......................................................... Annalise Jasinski
Emily Webb .................................................................................. Jacob Petrofsky
Mr. Webb ...................................................................................... Erin Kline
Professor Willard/Ensemble ...................................................... Jonathon Gideon
Simon Stimpson ........................................................................... LaNea Bartel
Mrs. Soames/Joe Crowell/Si Crowell ............................................. Owen Kannenberg
Constable Warren/Choir/Ensemble .............................................. Rachel Bartsch
Baseball Player/Choir/ Ensemble ................................................... Eli Duero
Sam Craig ...................................................................................... Lianna Brice
Ensemble ..................................................................................... Macy Wallace
Choral Trio ................................................................................ Lianna Brice, Alexis Smith, Angela Penterman

PRODUCTION/CREATIVE TEAM

Producer ...................................................................................... Prof. Lori Woodall-Schaufler
Director ...................................................................................... Glenna Gustin
Stage Manager ............................................................................ Melinda Rhodebeck
Assistant Stage Managers ......................................................... Katie Pelletiere, Alexandra Pakalski
Music Director ........................................................................ Danette Buikema
Scenic and Lighting Designer ...................................................... Dan Hummel
Costume Designer ........................................................................ Marie Wilke
Sound Design ................................................................................ Glenna Gustin, Bradley Dunigan
Set Construction/Scenic Painting ................................................... Students of Stagecraft 1
Lighting Tech .................................................................................. Jonah McGinnis
Sound Tech ................................................................................ Lauryn Heppe
Hair and Makeup ........................................................................... Prof. Lori Woodall-Schaufler, Cecelia Milner
Running Crew ................................................................................ Talitha Marshall, Blaine Andrade
Box Office Staff .............................................................................. Courtney Richards, Samuel Gmirek, Kristen Sako, Steven Beloin, Abigail Wegner, Melissa Zimmer
Marketing/Publicity ........................................................................... Jeff Bandurski, CUW Marketing
Graphic Design ........................................................................ Gabriel Metzger, Cassidy Mertzig
Photography .................................................................................. Terry Clark-Bauman
CAST BIOGRAPHIES

LaNea BarTEL (Joe and Si Crowell, Mr. Soames)
LaNea will be performing for the first time in CUW’s Our Town. She is in pre-pharmacy and competes on the cross-country and track team. She is from Kewaunee, WI. She thanks her friends Anna and Chuck, who convinced her to try out acting and encouraged her to be in the show, along with all the cast, crew, and directors for their hard work and dedication. “Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6.

Rachel Bartsch (Woman in the Balcony, Baseball Player, Chorus Member, Constable Warren U/S)
Rachel is an Accounting major from Cameron, WI. She was last seen as Maud Dunlop in The Music Man last fall. Rachel would like to thank her parents, roommates (and Charsley), and friends for their unwavering support and the cast and crew for their impressive work on the show. 1 John 5:15

Selah BatiANSila (Mrs. Gibbs)
Selah is thrilled to be on stage for the second time at Concordia. She was perviously Susan from The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe this past winter. Selah is a Business major with a minor in event management. She would like to thank the director and cast for making this an amazing learning experience while creating friendships and growing as a person. She would also like to thank her parents and family for always standing beside her. All glory to God! Psalm 143:8

Ethan Boester (Dr. Gibbs)
Ethan is excited for his second show as part of the CUW theater program where he is portraying Dr. Gibbs. He is really looking forward to and enjoys this play. He is from Nashville, Illinois and is a freshman studying Chemistry and Biblical Languages. He thanks the director for the work she has put in and for the time of the stage managers. He also thanks the cast and crew for the work and support they provide. Most of all, he gives thanks and glory to God for the gifts He has given him. “Cast all your anxieties on the Lord, for He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

Lianna Brice (Stage Manager)
Lianna is a senior majoring in Choral Music Education and minoring in Theatre. She is excited to be a part of her 13th show at Concordia after performing this past fall as Marian Paroo in The Music Man. Lianna is deeply grateful for everyone in the cast and crew who made this show possible, for the love and support of her family and friends, and for her Savior, Jesus Christ. “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31

Eli Duero (Belligerent Man, Man Among the Deady)
Eli is very excited to be a part of Our Town as his fifth show at CUW. He has previously been in The Music Man, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. He is a sophomore and is studying
Justice and Public Policy with a minor in Theatre. He would like to thank everyone involved in the production, as well as his family and friends for all their support. He would also like to thank God for giving him the opportunity to be a part of it all. Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God.”

MICHAEL EWERT
(Howie Newsome, U/S Simon Stimpson)
Michael is thrilled to return to the CUW stage in his second show! He was last seen as Oliver Hix in The Music Man last Fall. He is a Pre-Seminary & Philosophy major with a minor in Theological Languages, and is from Milwaukee, WI. Special thanks to his parents for their love and sacrifice. Soli Deo Gloria! Ecclesiastes 1:2-4

JONATHON GIDEON
(Simon Stimpson)
Jonathon is elated to embark on his sixth show with the Concordia Players. He is a junior from Plymouth, Wisconsin majoring in music with a theatre minor. Jonathon was last seen on stage as Marcellus Washburn in The Music Man. He would like to thank his beautiful fiancée Jenny, Christopher, his mother, the entire cast and crew, and everyone at Kingo for all of their love and support. “If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn’t love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.” (1 Corinthians 13:1)

ANNAINE JASINSKI
(Emily Webb)
Annalise is so excited be playing Emily Webb on the CUW stage. You last saw her as Violet Beauregard in Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory and also in Hairspray! She is a senior Mass Communication major with a Theatre minor. She also plays flute in CUW’s Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Annalise would like to thank her parents, the Kannenbergs, her siblings, boyfriend, and friends for all of their love and support. 2 Corinthians 5:7 - “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

OWEN KANNENBERG
(Constable Warren & Choir Member)
Owen Kannenberg is excited to be a part of his 4th show here at Concordia University Wisconsin, where his most previous role was Father Christmas in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. He is so blessed to be a part of such a great cast and crew to make this show what it is. He would like to say thank you to his family, his girlfriend, her family, and to God for supporting him.

ETHAN KARSCHNIK
(George)
Ethan is a currently a sophomore studying Mass Communications with a minor in Theatre. He has participated in four plays so far at CUW with Our Town being his fifth, and is very excited to continue his acting career with this program. He’d like to thank his family, fellow cast members, and God for supporting him through this wonderful production. Welcome to Grover’s Corners! We hope we can move you like this play has moved us. Enjoy the show!

ERIN KLINE (Professor Willard, Ensemble)
Erin is excited to return to the CUW stage in her eighth and final show! She was last seen as Mr. Tumnus in The Lion, the
McKenzie is ecstatic to be performing in her second CUW show, earlier this season you may have seen her as “Elf” in The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. She is a freshman studying K-12 Art Education and Theatre. Our Town has always been a dream play for her and she wants to thank the cast and crew for going on this journey with her. She would like to thank her dad, her mom, her sister Erin, and Michael back in Racine for always keeping her going. Psalm 8:3.

Angela is very excited to be in her fourth production on the CUW stage. She previously appeared in The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, The Music Man, and A Raisin in the Sun. Originally from Kaukauna, Angela is a Sophomore majoring in Graphic Design with a minor in Marketing. She would like to thank everybody involved in the production, as well as her supportive mother and father, family, friends, and Barney Stinson. She is blessed God gave her the opportunity to be a part of this production...DARY! Psalm 86:11.

Charlie is very excited to once again share the stage with her fellow theatre friends in CUW’s production of Our Town. She feels well prepared for this role after her CUW debut as Seamus the Shoe Shine Boy in the fall musical, The Music Man. Charlie is a Music Major and is very happy to be able to sing the lovely hymns in this show. She hopes you enjoy and leave feeling a little closer to the residents of Grover’s Corners!
CAST BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

AVRIELLE SCHNEIDER (Rebecca)
Avrielle is excited to play the little sister to George in her first onstage CUW production. She was last heard playing her oboe for The Music Man fall 2017. She is an English and Biology major with a minor in Theatre and is from Gilbert, MN. Special thanks to cast, crew, parents, younger siblings, and friends. She also thanks God and CUWT for this opportunity and hopes there will be more to come.

ALEXIS SMITH (Stage Manager III, Joe Stoddard, U/S Stage Manager I, U/S Rebecca)
Alexis is very excited to be a part of another theatre production at CUW!! She is a 5th year student studying Early Childhood Education and Theatre along with an Adaptive Ed minor. Her past favorite shows she’s been in at CUW include Hairspray, Macbeth, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, Three Genius Cabaret, A Midsummer Night’s Dream and the title role as Charlotte in Charlotte’s Web. She would like to thank the cast, crew, director, and production team for all of their hard work on the show, and her family always for their love and support. She would also like to thank God for giving her this opportunity to make new friends and use her gifts. Psalms 57:3

MACY WALLACE (Lady in a Box, Woman Among the Dead)
Macy is honored to be able to work with Concordia’s theater people in her fourth show here. She was last seen in A Midsummer Night’s Dream last Summer. She is an English major and a theater minor. Her hometown is in Augusta, Kansas. She wants to express her deep appreciation to the Director, her fellow cast members, and the crew for being a part of this show and helping it come to life. She would also like to thank her friends and family who have always supported her love of theater. May this show bring God all the glory He is due and may He bless it to do so.

ARDIS WHITE (Stage Manager II, Sound Effects)
Ardis is excited to be onstage for the first time in a Concordia show. She previously helped backstage in The Music Man and The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. She is studying pre-physical therapy with a minor in Theatre, and is from Waterloo, Iowa. She would like to thank her director, castmates, and crew for being great to work with, as well as her family and friends for being so supportive. Lamentations 3:25.
PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

DANETTE BUIKEMA (Music Director)
Danette Buikema LOVES music! She loves hearing it, teaching it, singing and worshiping with music. She wants to encourage us to “sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises!” Ps. 47:6 Danette had a wonderful time being the vocal coach for CUW’s talented and charming students. “And special thanks to fabulous Glenna!”

MARIE WILKE (Costume Design)
Marie Wilke is privileged to once again costume for the Concordia University Wisconsin drama department. She costumed the recent The Lion, Witch and Wardrobe production at CUW and is happy to be involved with Our Town. She has been a costumer for Acacia Theatre for several years as well as Morningstar Production for over 20 years. She thanks God for this opportunity.

DANIEL HUMMEL (Set Design)
Professor Hummel teaches Stagecraft 1 and 2 at CUW, and designs lighting and sets for some of the productions, like lighting for The Women of Lockerbie, 12 Angry Jurors, and Always a Bridesmaid, and sets for Godspell, The Importance of Being Earnest, Charlotte’s Web, Willy Wonka, and Hairspray. He also designs for the Acacia Theatre Company on this stage and his lighting and set designs were last seen in The Hiding Place a month ago. Dan is honored to work with director Glenna Gustin and the talented and ambitious cast and crew on this important play. “Does anyone ever realize life while they live it...every, every minute? No. Saints and poets maybe...they do some.” And theatre folks!

LORI WOODALL-SCHAUFLER (Producer/ Hair and Makeup Design)
Prof. Woodall has been teaching Theatre at CUW for 12 years, and has served as the Director of the Theatre Program for the last five. She has directed 20 plays at CUW and produced several of them, her most recent faves being The Women of Lockerbie, Hairspray!, Godspell, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Sense and Sensibility, and A Raisin in the Sun, to name a few. She is also a professional actor and director, and enjoys drama ministry. Special thanks to Glenna for leading a timeless, poignant play, and to the production team and cast for a job well done! To God be the glory, always! Phil 4:4-8

KATIE PELLETIERE (ASM)
Katie is a Sophomore here at CUW and a Secondary Ed and English major with a Theatre minor. She is from Lake Villa, IL. This is her sixth show at CUW. Katie would like to thank her parents for always encouraging her to follow her dreams and continue Theater. She hopes you have as much fun watching the show as the cast and crew did while rehearsing it!

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